



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

9:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-0582)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Mark Burman, 1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta,
2nd Vice Chairperson Algird Leiga, Commissioner Barry Waite,
Commissioner Tyler Kelley, Commissioner Alexander Ponder,
Commissioner Andrew Westall and Commissioner Jules

Absent: Commissioner Rodrigo Guerra Jr.

Excused: Commissioner Jess Talamantes

Call to Order. (13-1078)

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Burman at 9:10 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the Minutes of February 5, 2013. (13-1144)

On motion of 1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta, seconded by 2nd Vice Chairperson Algird Legia and unanimously carried, the minutes of February 5, 2013 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORT

2. Chairperson's Report on various items for the month of March 2013.

Recommendation for the Sheriff's Department Ex-Official position. (13-1080)

Chairperson Burman introduced Ms. Nicole Nishida, Public Information

Officer, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department-Newsroom to the Commission. He advised that he will be recommending Ms. Nishida to be appointed to LGS Commission representing the Sheriff as an Ex-Officio member. Ms. Nishida is a non-sworn member of the Sheriff's Department currently handling all press and news media as the Department's media liaison. The Commission concurred with the recommendation and expressed interest in looking forward to having her onboard the Commission. Chairperson Burman will follow-up with Sheriff Baca's office to expedite Ms. Nishida's appointment.

III. PRESENTATION

- 3. Presentation titled "Recovery Housing - Community Asset and the Effect of the Community Care Facilities Ordinance (CCFO) on Housing Options". Designed to help inform local governments on the value of recovery housing in our communities.**

**Jeff Christensen, Executive Director
The Sober Living Network (13-1083)**

Guest presenter Mr. Jeff Christensen, Executive Director, The Sober Living Network (SLN) presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission entitled, "Recovery Housing – Community Asset and the Effect of the Community Care Facilities Ordinance (CCFO) on Housing Options." The presentation was specifically designed to help inform local governments on the value of recovery housing in our communities.

SLN is a non-profit volunteer organization with a mission of organizing grass root coalitions. It serves like a Better Business Bureau for recovery housing. The standard, structure and ethics of SLN include quality homes, coalitions, codes of ethics, home inspections, guidelines, training, coalition support, coalition formation, issue advocacy, public information, referrals and directory.

Mr. Christensen stated that there are 300 plus certified sober living homes in Los Angeles County. He clarified that sober living is a recovery residence and does not provide clinical services in the home. There is no license for a Sober Living Residence. Sober living homes are safe, sober places to live for anyone seeking recovery. Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential. He also added that the four dimensions that support the recovery process are health, home, purpose and community.

Other points highlighted in the presentation included the following statistics:

- There are 32 million people who need or are in need nationally (10% of U.S. population);
- 100,000 persons received help of some sort in LA County (900,000 persons in Los Angeles County still need assistance and can't or won't get it)
- Of 1 million people in Los Angeles, there are 5,430 homes licensed for drug treatment beds that are funded. There are 15,000 homes licensed for drug treatment beds that are not funded.
- Total beds needed now is 100,000–300,000 (Odds of getting a funded bed in Los Angeles County <1%)
- Less than 1 out of 100 homes will be lucky enough to get a chance at a funded bed. 20% - 25% looking for assistance are homeless.
- Sober living environments help more than 20,000 Angelino's reintegrate back into society – sober.
- There is no cost to the County – sober living falls outside County funding sources.
- Double benefit – citizens go from resource draining to tax paying contributors

Continuing his presentation, Mr. Christensen discussed the Community Care Facilities Ordinance (CCFO) and the effects it will have on sober living housing. CCFO is based on the 2007 L.A. City Council motion to eliminate sober living homes from residential areas. In 2010, it was recognized that outlawing sober living homes would violate fair housing laws. He further indicated that the ordinance is also intended to do 3 things: 1) Update City code to allow more licensed facilities to operate, in compliance with state law regarding licensed facilities 2) Restrict parolee and probationer housing 3) Eliminate all shared housing (seen as “bad homes) including sober living homes—from the City.

The presentation also pointed out that CCFO policy is bad and harms those that are in need; violates City, State and Federal law; could cost L.A. more than \$85,000,000; fails its own mission and mandates immorality.

Mr. Christensen answered questions posed by the Commissioners and the presentation concluded by seeking collaboration from local government agencies to 1) defeat the CCFO, 2) establish a task to create a system that rapidly addresses nuisance properties using existing or enhanced enforcement tools 3) support strong, clear protection of fair housing rights for disabled populations and assist other areas of government in understanding fair housing law.

Chair Burman thanked Mr. Christensen for the presentation and invited him to come back and provide an update at a future meeting.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

4. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-1088)

Commissioner Bagneris informed the Commissioners that the State Public Safety Realignment Act that was established in October 2011 is affecting all areas and unincorporated cities in the County of Los Angeles. Effective July 1, 2013 the revocation process will transition from the Board of Parole Hearings to the courts. Dr. Bagneris suggested that the Commission should invite representatives from the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, and District Attorney's Office to a future LGS meeting and provide a presentation on the following:

- How well the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 (AB 109 & AB 117) is working by examining of the data collected by the listed departments and other entities that come in contact with this new category of custody for non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offenders.
- Request an update to explain the data and discuss its implications for the safety of residents in the municipalities and unincorporated areas of the County.
- Request an update by the courts regarding how the review process of parole violators and whether they have the personnel available to provide a speedy review of revocations given the severe financial shortfall that has led to massive court closures.
- Second Vice Chairperson Leiga suggested that staff contact the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) to obtain Agendas for more information.
- Chairperson Burman recommended scheduling representatives from the listed departments over the course of April 2013 and May 2013 to attend

the meetings in order for the Commission to gather information and make recommendations before the July 1, 2013.

Public Comment

5. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-1094)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

6. Adjournment for the meeting of March 5, 2013. (13-1095)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.